



Celebrating 10 Years Since the ECG's Inaugural Bike Tour

On September 12, 2004, eight cyclists set out from the Canadian border in Calais, Maine, for a 55-day bike ride to Key West, Florida. These pioneers were the first people to travel the entire 2,900-mile East Coast Greenway route. In fact, prior to the Inaugural Tour, the ECG was generally defined, but without a discrete "travel route" in many areas. The tour made it necessary to create an on-the-ground route and cue sheets (turn-by-turn directions). Trail Coordinator Eric Weis recalled, "In some sections the travel route was finalized the day before the tour pedaled through, with cue sheets being faxed to the riders' hotel."

The Inaugural Tour not only compelled the ECGA to define a travel route, but the riders provided immediate feedback to help us make improvements and note any areas where trail conditions needed to be addressed. The current ECG spine route corridor is almost identical to what was defined during the tour, though there have since been many improvements and adjustments to the interim on-road routing.

Six people rode the entire way, and they were joined by several others for sections of the tour. The riders hailed from states throughout the Eastern Seaboard (and Arizona), and ranged in age from their 40s to their 70s. One rider is a wheelchair user who rides a custom-made tandem bicycle.

Mac Sexton (then of Maine, now of Florida) led the group, and other through-riders were David Wood of Maine, Jack Kurrle of Arizona, Mike and Anne Kruimer of New Jersey, and Myron Skott of Georgia. Hilge Hurford of New York joined the group a few days into the tour, cycling with



Inaugural Tour riders in Calais, Maine, being sent off by Joyce Sockabasin and Joanne Dana of the Passamaquoddy Tribe.

them from Portland, Maine, to Key West. Other riders for large portions of the tour were Bill Logan of New York (Calais to NYC), and Carroll Weber of Florida (DC to Charleston). Ray Giglio of Maine rode Calais to Connecticut, and his wife Jane provided several food and drink breaks for the tour in Maine. Bill O'Neill of Connecticut, who was then on the ECGA's Board of Trustees, rode Charleston to Key West.

MANY people throughout the ECG corridor supported the group by assisting with navigation and logistics, hosting the riders in their homes, and consulting on the route. Key ride supporters were Tony Barrett of Maine who drove the support and gear (SAG) vehicle for much of the tour and assisted with logistics. Maggie Warren of Maine and Ray Giglio took turns driving the SAG vehicle from Charleston to Key West. Ethan Davis of Maine provided a great deal of logistical support, finding hotels and home stay lodging for the group.

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Riders Mike and Anne Kruimer, Hilge Hurford, Mac Sexton, Myron Skott, Jack Kurrle and David Wood talk about the ECG with a local official at an event during the tour.

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ECG Navigation Just Got Easier

The East Coast Greenway Alliance is proud to unveil the first versions of two new tools which will revolutionize how people travel the East Coast Greenway: the ECG smartphone app, and our new mapping and cue sheet webpage, map.greenway.org.

The smartphone app is a GPS-based tool that displays a map on a user's phone, notes one's current position with an arrowhead icon, and shows the East Coast Greenway route as a green (trail) and blue (road) line overlay. The user can simply follow the colored line, as one's location is always in the center of the screen, updating approximately every 65 feet.

This app can also be used to generate cue sheets. The app will display the turn directions one at a time at the bottom of the map. The phone will speak the directions as well – useful for those who can safely travel with an earbud in one ear. The audio function will also give an alert if the user is off-route: “Did you miss your turn?”

A fun feature of the app is that it also allows users to take photos of the route as they travel, and add captions, and those photos are automatically tagged to locations on the map. When a user taps the small camera icon which they see on the map, photos uploaded by greenway users will be displayed. (Not interested in seeing photos other people took? It's simple to turn that function on and off, as well as any other icon on the map, such as public restrooms or bike shops.)

Some testers have encountered trouble generating directions if the phone's GPS doesn't think the user is within 50 feet of the ECG – windy conditions sometimes have an effect. As a backup, if the phone doesn't know that a user is on the ECG, it will provide Mapquest bike route directions instead. The route-generating portion of the tool will be refined as we move forward. Your feedback is essential to making the app as useful as possible, and you can submit questions and comments to us via the app itself. The smartphone app is available for free



The new ECG app can display turn directions at the bottom of the map and can speak directions as well.

Download for free from iTunes or Google Play!

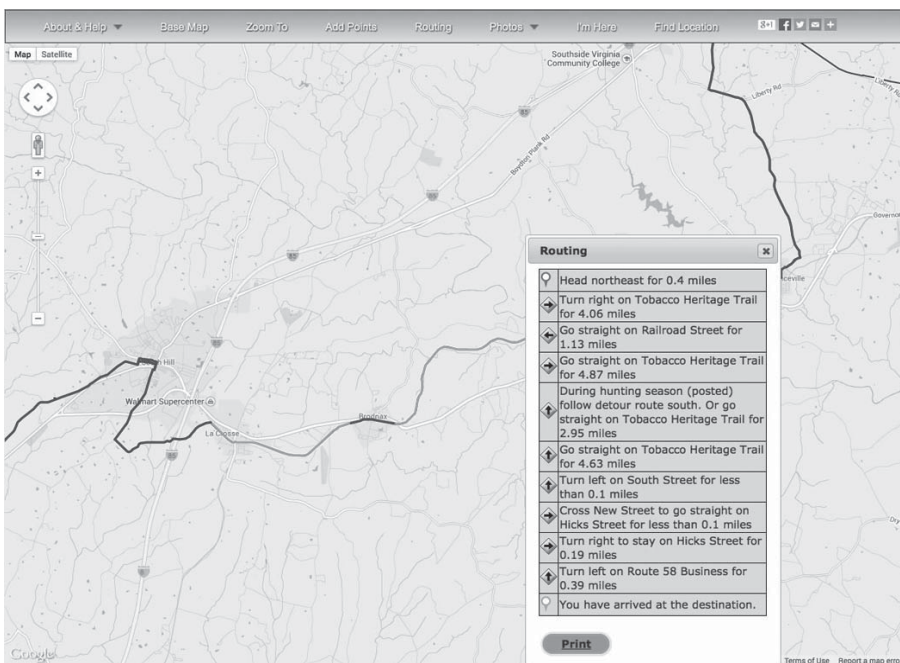
download at the App Store (for iPhones) and Google Play (for Android phones).

The webpage map.greenway.org is the other great new tool available to ECG users. For the first time, anyone with an Internet connection can use their browser to create custom cue sheets between any two points on the ECG. The cue sheets can be printed to bring with you on your ride, or you can use this tool with your smartphone's browser to generate a cue sheet to display on the screen as you travel. Like the app, the webpage can also be used to show a map of the ECG, with your location always centered. People with Windows phones, rather than iPhones or Android phones, will want to use this in lieu of the app. Users can easily turn these custom cue sheets into PDF files to transfer onto their phones, instead of using the app.

Let us know your experience using these great new tools! These are versions 1.0, and we'll have some exciting updates coming out in the next few months.

These apps were created by cartographer Steve Spindler and programmer John Zeng of WikiMapping, with generous funding support from REI and the Helen and William Mazer Foundation. Thank you so much to everyone who supported or worked on the app - you are making the ECG easier to navigate!

The ECG Web Map can generate custom cue sheets - available for free at map.greenway.org.



Celebrating the 2004 Inaugural Tour

(Continued from page 1.)

The ECGA's first Executive Director, Karen Votava, noted that some of the benefits of the Inaugural Tour were a group of committed supporters and increased local awareness of the East Coast Greenway. The tour provided, "Confirmation to all those involved that the route could be ridden NOW! That spurred more promotion of use," said Ms. Votava.

The Inaugural Tour also generated significant financial support for the ECGA. The through-riders fundraised or donated \$10,000 each, and the tour as a whole raised \$75,000. As the tour riders raised awareness and generated excitement about this long-distance greenway project, membership in the ECGA also grew significantly.

Ten years on, the tour was a significant experience in the riders' lives. "We have not missed a single day since the ride thinking or talking about it," said Mike Kruimer. Mike and his wife Anne, who was paralyzed in an earlier cycling accident, were remarkable in riding the entire route on their specially-designed (and heavy) tandem that Anne hand-pedals from a seat up front. Their fortitude was inspirational for all.

Tour leader Mac Sexton says the tour is still one of his most memorable experiences. Highlights for him included "Seeing a bear and cubs up ahead on the trail through Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge on the first day..." and "Just the joy of being outdoors moving through the air and countryside."



Painting of the Tour riders (detail) by Yemassee, SC, artist Charlotte Holmes Murray.

Myron Skott said that some of the best times on the tour were the home stays and sharing a meal after the day's journey. One of his favorite home stays was with ECGA Director Karen Votava and her husband in Rhode Island. Another memorable stay was with the parents of artist Charlotte Holmes Murray in Yemassee, South Carolina. Mac Sexton loved the artwork in their home so much that he purchased a painting off their wall and commissioned Ms. Murray to do a painting of the tour. The next day she and her son drove out to photograph the riders. From that she made a beautiful painting, which still hangs in Mac's dining room, constantly reminding him of the ECG tour.

Since the 2004 tour, Myron Skott and his wife Cathy have biked major portions of the East Coast Greenway four more times. This summer they rode from Jacksonville, Florida, to New York City for the Cabot Community Tour. We asked Myron what differences he found on the ECG ten years later.



Celebration in Key West! With Ray Giglio, Mac Sexton, Bill O'Neill, Hilge Hurford, Jack Kurrle, Myron Skott, David Wood, Anne Kruimer, and Mike Kruimer.

He said, "One thing that has changed is the ease at which one can navigate the Greenway. In 2004, I recall incessant debates about which way to go at many junctions, and a handful of maps and cue sheets to be juggled. Now, with the ECG App running on smartphones, and trusty Google Maps to back it up and locate needed services, ANYONE can navigate the route. And just the fact that so much more of the Greenway is there is indeed noticeable, in every state."

Many of the riders became friends on the tour, and they still keep in touch and visit each other. They are also still key ECGA volunteers, members, and supporters. Sadly, Ray Giglio passed away in July from leukemia. He was a friend of the ECG and a devoted supporter of trails and greenways throughout his life.

We couldn't advocate for more greenway, place more ECG signs, or create new maps and navigation tools without the fearless support of pioneers like the folks on the Inaugural Tour – we thank them and the many people that made their ride possible! You literally put the ECG on the map.



The end of the ride in Key West! Thank you to Tony Barrett, Mike Kruimer, Mac Sexton, Myron Skott, Karen Votava, and Eric Weis for their contributions to this article.

From our Director

Dear Friends,

It took our organization 13 years to make the East Coast Greenway route a reality that experienced cyclists could explore from Canada to Key West. Then we spent the past decade making the ECG more accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

While we celebrate our strong achievements, our job is not yet done. We have two more decades of work to realize our vision of a trail network that is safe and accessible to all - a route that carries over 100 million visits per year and fosters a healthy people and planet.

The current app developments and growing online mapping tools help us ensure that people can access the ECG in new ways. They provide ECG visitors not only with navigation tools, but also with a resource to instantly connect to nature, history, and culture through safe biking and walking in their communities.

Together, we can keep our greenway growing strong into the future!

- Dennis Markatos-Soriano

10 New Trail Sections Designated as ECG at Spring Trail Council Meeting

Twenty miles of new trails, in 5 different states, were designated as ECG during our Trail Council meeting in Boston in April.

These new trail sections include a key pedestrian and bicycle bridge over I-40 in Durham, NC, (near our HQ office) and a unique public space: the bright orange Riverfront Trail in Newark, NJ!

Completion of the Tobacco Heritage Trail from Brodnax to Lawrenceville, VA, and the Walnut Creek Trail in Raleigh, NC, has allowed us to link existing trails into the ECG travel route which were previously inaccessible due to road conditions leading to them.

Thank you to everyone who worked to get these new trail segments designated! Please join us in Charleston, SC, on November 8th for our Fall Trail Council meeting, where we will designate more new sections of the ECG.



ATT I-40 Bridge in Durham, NC. Photo by Dave Connelly.



Phoenix Plaza in Hartford, CT.



Equestrians enjoy the Tobacco Heritage Trail in VA.

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**Thank you to all the fantastic
volunteers on our Board,
Advisory Board, State
Committees, and Trail Council!**

Join Us in Charleston for Our Fall State of the Greenway Summit!

On November 7th and 8th we will be hosting our Fall 2014 State of the Greenway weekend in Charleston, South Carolina. Everyone is invited to join us as we explore the ECG in the area and connect with local partners! Here is a schedule of the weekend's events. Read more at www.greenway.org/blog.

Friday, November 7

11 AM: ECG Press Conference, Charlotte Street Park, with Dennis Markatos-Soriano (ECGA Executive Director) and Mike Seekings (Charleston City Council Member, District 8).

12 PM - 2:30 PM (check in begins at 11): Bicycle Ride
Join us for a relaxed-pace 21-mile bike ride on the ECG from downtown Charleston across the Cooper River to Sullivan's Island and back. Ticket includes attendance at the evening reception. Free for ECGA members, \$20 for non-members, which includes a 1-year individual membership. Register at <http://ecgfallsummitride.eventbrite.com> - space is limited so register today!

5 - 7 PM: East Coast Greenway Reception

Enjoy a casual reception celebrating greenway progress at the Charleston Maritime Center, 10 Wharfside Street, Charleston, SC. Free for ECGA members, \$20 for non-members, which includes a 1-year individual membership. Please register here: <http://ecgfallsummitride.eventbrite.com> or contact Debbie at debbie@greenway.org or 919-797-0619.

Fall State of the Greenway Summit, Trail Council, & Annual Meeting in Charleston, SC Saturday, November 8th, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

See details at www.greenway.org/blog

Saturday, November 8

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM: ECG State of the Greenway Summit
Charleston Maritime Center, 10 Wharfside Street, Charleston, SC. Hear from ECG staff and key local partners during our State of the Greenway Summit. Free and open to the public. See www.greenway.org/blog for agenda. Please RSVP to debbie@greenway.org or 919-797-0619 if you plan to attend the Summit, and if you would like to purchase a lunch (\$10).

The ECGA's Annual Members' Meeting and Trail Council Meeting will be held in the afternoon, and will include a tribute to the 2004 tour riders. All are welcome; current members may vote on Board of Trustees nominees and bylaw amendments at the Annual Meeting, by mail, or email.

The nominees for Board of Trustees are: Brandon Douglass of New York City, Ellen Johnson of Philadelphia, and Tom Kaiden of Alexandria, VA. Current Trustees Larry Silver and Anne Maleady will also be running for another term. Please see www.greenway.org (What's New section on home page) or contact debbie@greenway.org for more information and how to vote.

MEMBERSHIP - the Foundation of the ECGA!

Thank you to all our wonderful ECG members and donors - your support is vital to our progress! Membership donations directly support our trail program in your region, helping us advocate for new trail development, as well as placing signs and improving wayfinding.

Join or renew by November 1st, and you'll be entered in a drawing to win a \$200 gift certificate from Performance Bicycle, and great ECG gear! You can mail in the form to the right, or join online at www.greenway.org.

Other Ways to Give

Would you prefer to donate stock or appreciated securities, or make a planned or legacy gift? Supporting this national treasure in such an enduring way is a wonderful gift that will leave a legacy of safe biking and walking infrastructure in your region.

Please contact us at 919-797-0619 or debbie@greenway.org for more information on stock donations or legacy giving.

Together we are transforming the Eastern Seaboard through increased biking and walking for travel, commuting, and recreation - thank you for your support!

Please mail to: **EAST COAST GREENWAY ALLIANCE**

5315 Highgate Dr. Suite 105, Durham, NC 27713

919-797-0619 | info@greenway.org | www.greenway.org

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We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit - memberships and donations are fully tax deductible.

☐ Individual (\$40)

☐ Pathfinder (\$100)

☐ Family (\$60)

☐ Trailblazer (\$500)

☐ Student (\$25)

☐ Close the Gaps Club (\$1000)

☐ Other \$_____

☐ Individual Life (\$1500)

☐ Monthly Sustainer _____ per month (Min. \$8. Provide cc number)

Become a Monthly Sustainer!

Want to support the ECGA year-round? (You can change the amount, start, or stop at any time.) Everyone joining the Sustainer program by November 1st will receive a free ECGA reflective vest! Join today!



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Recent Events on the ECG



At the Brunswick-Lewiston Bikes and Balloon Festival Ride in Maine. Look for more fun events and trail signage coming in Maine, thanks to generous support from the Quimby Family Foundation, Tom's of Maine, the Maine Community Foundation, and several major donors.



Opening Celebration of Phase III of the Tobacco Heritage Trail. This 17.7-mile trail now connects the communities of Lawrenceville and Brodnax, Virginia.



(Above) In May and June, the 2nd Cabot Creamery Community Tour rolled from Jacksonville, Florida, to New York City via the East Coast Greenway. Long-time ECGA members Myron and Cathy Skott rode 900+ miles and participated in dozens of events.

(Left) US Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx with ECGA Director Dennis Markatos-Soriano at the National Bike Summit in DC. We met with key lawmakers and important allies at this national conference.